molecular weight of in the range of from about 550,000 to about 8,000,000 which has been ionically crosslinked with a trivalent cation provided in an amount sufficient to crosslink in the range of from about 60 to about 100 percent of the carboxyl groups of the carboxyl-containing polysaccharide, to a site of surgical trauma.

C2 2. (amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the adhesion preventative is derived from [a carboxyl-containing polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl cellulose,] hyaluronic acid, or an alkali [and] or alkaline earth metal salt thereof.

C3 5. (amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the sodium hyaluronate is ionically crosslinked with a [polyvalent] trivalent cation selected from the group consisting of iron, aluminum, and chromium provided in an amount sufficient to crosslink in the range of from about 60 to about 100 percent of the carboxyl groups of the sodium hyaluronate.

C4 ~~14~~ 17. (amended) The method of claim [16] ~~15~~ 13 wherein the viscosity of the adhesion preventative is in the range of from about 2,500 cps to about 250,000 cps.

C5 ~~15~~ 19. (amended) An adhesion preventative comprising a sterile non-inflammatory hyaluronic acid fraction having a weight average molecular weight of in the range of from about 550,000 to about 8,000,000 having carboxyl acid groups which are ionically crosslinked by at least one trivalent cation selected from the group consisting of iron, aluminum and chromium wherein [in the range of] from about 60 to about 100 percent of the carboxyl acid groups have been ionically crosslinked by said trivalent cations and the adhesion preventative has a viscosity of at least 2,500 cps. --